REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Sol for the interview conducted on January 12, 2011. Proposed amendments to claim 1 were discussed. No agreement was reached.

Claims 1-2, 6-9, and 11-16 are pending. Claims 3-5, 10, 14, and 17-25 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the claim amendments may be found in at least paragraphs 0033-0039 of the application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

I.   35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 11-16 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 11-16, under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0231206 ("Armstrong"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-8

The cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest initiating a point-to-point protocol (PPP) over Ethernet (PPPoE) discovery stage to establish a PPP session, as in claim 1. The alleged AAPA is silent as to a <u>PPPoE discovery stage</u>.

Armstrong describes an embedded user interface within a communication device that communicates with a user's computer for configuring Internet access, troubleshooting Internet service, and controlling user access to the Internet. See Armstrong, Abstract. In Armstrong, upon receiving a request to provide content from the Internet, the communication device determines if Internet access is available. See Armstrong, Abstract. In Armstrong, if the communication device is not connected or the Internet connection is already in use, the device returns a web page generated locally within the communication device and otherwise, the request is delivered via a broadband connection. See Armstrong, Abstract. Armstrong is silent as to a

PPPoE discovery stage. Thus, the cited portions of Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest initiating a PPPoE discovery stage to establish a PPP session, as in claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2 and 6-8 are allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 9 and 11-15

The cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 9. For example, the cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest a connection port that is capable of transmitting a data packet to initiate a PPPoE discovery stage, as in claim 9. The alleged AAPA is silent as to a PPPoE discovery stage.

As explained above, Armstrong is silent as to a PPPoE discovery stage. Thus, the cited portions of Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest a connection port that is capable of transmitting a data packet to initiate a PPPoE discovery stage, as in claim 9. Therefore, the cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 9. Hence, claim 9 is allowable. Claims 11-15 are allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 16

The cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 16. For example, the cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest detecting a digital subscriber line (DSL) related troubleshooting event at a remote service terminal that supports an end-user computer having a DSL connection at a local site after the remote service terminal initiates a PPPoE discovery stage, as in claim 16. The alleged AAPA is silent as to a PPPoE discovery stage.

As explained above, Armstrong is silent as to a PPPoE discovery stage. Therefore, the cited portions of Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest detecting a digital subscriber line (DSL) related troubleshooting event at a remote service terminal that supports an end-user computer having a DSL connection at a local site after the remote service terminal initiates a PPPoE

discovery stage, as in claim 16. Therefore, the cited portions of AAPA and Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 16. Hence, claim 16 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.
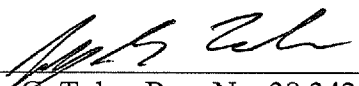
Any changes to the claims in this response that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited references, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

_____1-26-2011_____
Date

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Jeffrey G. Toler, Reg. No. 38,342
Toler Law Group, Intellectual Properties
8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite A201
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5575 (fax)